

Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Overview

Early Childhood Services Bureau
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*DPHHS – Department of Public Health and Human Services

*ECSB – Early Childhood Services Bureau

*CCL – Child Care Licensing



What is CCDF Reauthorization?

- A. The Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act is the law that authorizes the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF).
- B. CCDF is the primary Federal funding source devoted to providing low-income families that are working or participating in education and training with help paying for child care and improving the quality of child care for all children.
- C. On November 19, 2014 President Obama signed the act into law.
- D. This is significant because it hadn't been reauthorized since 1996 and it changed the focus of the CCDF program. The CCDBG Act of 2014 renews authority for CCDF through FY 2020.
- E. Changes CCDF Plan period from 2 to 3 year cycle.
- F. Focuses on better balancing dual purposes – to promote economic self-sufficiency for low-income families and support healthy development and school readiness needs of children.



Purpose of the CCDF

- A. To assist states in improving the overall quality of child care services that support healthy development and school readiness needs of children
- B. To empower parents to develop their children by choosing quality childcare and to become self sufficient. (the CCDF helps parents obtain and maintain child care)



Key Features of the Reauthorization

- A. Health and Safety Requirements for Child Care Providers
- B. Transparent Consumer and Provider Education Information
- C. Family-Friendly Eligibility Policies
- D. Activities to Improve the Quality of Child Care
- E. Includes a significant number of changes, some of which are straightforward to implement, while others are complex and will be phase-in over several years



Key Reauthorization Changes

Eligibility Determination

- A. States must continue eligibility for 12 months regardless of changes in parents working or financial status
 - Montana currently authorizes Best Beginnings Scholarship (Child Care Subsidy) for 12 months.
- B. At redetermination, or upon change, states must provide for the graduated phase out of assistance
 - Montana is in the process of developing a graduated phase out policy.
- C. Requires States to conduct a market rate survey, or use an alternative methodology, such as a cost estimation model, and describe how payment rates will be established based on results of the survey or alternative methodology, taking into account cost of providing higher quality services
 - Montana has contracted with a Research Department for a valid and reliable Market Rate Survey.



Key Reauthorization Changes

Eligibility Determination

- D. Allows States the option to terminate assistance prior to re-determination if a parent loses employment, however assistance must be continued for at least 3 months to allow for job search.
 - Montana currently allows a grace period for parents/families experiencing a job loss to 90 days of child care assistance coverage.
- E. Work/School Activity Requirements
 - Montana currently provides child care assistance to families where one or both parents are full-time students without requiring they meet a work activity requirement as well.
- F. States must establish policies that reflect generally accepted payment practices for child care providers, including (to the extent practicable) paying for absence days, and timely reimbursement for child care services.
 - Montana is replacing 70 Certified Enrollment hours per year with 2 absent days per month for families enrolled full-time (30+ hours/week). This change will be effective July, 2016.

Key Reauthorization Changes

Consumer Education

- A. States must provide comprehensive consumer education to parents regarding their child care options, the quality and availability of child care, etc.
1. Montana currently has this information on the websites of <http://dphhs.mt.gov/hcsd/ChildCare> and <http://dphhs.mt.gov/qad/Licensure/Child-Care-Licensing-Find-Child-Care>.
 2. Montana will be doing some revisions and additions on its website to come into compliance with the new legislation.
 3. Aggregate state information on serious injury, deaths, and substantiated child abuse that occur in child care settings each year will be posted on the website.

Compliance date – November 2016



Key Reauthorization Changes

Key Quality Provisions

- Requires States to spend quality funds on at least 1 of 10 specified quality activities, which include developing tiered quality rating systems and supporting statewide resource and referral services.
 - **STARS to Quality program**
 - **Child Care Resource and Referral Programs**
- Requires establishment of professional development and training requirements with ongoing annual training and progression to improve knowledge and skills of CCDF providers.
 - **Montana – Early Childhood Project, current with plans for increased training opportunities**
- Requires States to implement Early Learning and Development Guidelines describing what children should know and be able to do, appropriate from birth to kindergarten entry
 - **Montana – current with Montana Early Learning Standards**
- States must increase the supply and improve the quality of care for children in underserved areas, infants and toddlers, children with disabilities, children receiving care during non-traditional hours, English language learners and the homeless
 - **Montana currently has the STARS to Quality program in place to assure quality of care. A variety of policies and supports are being considered to serve Infant and Toddlers, support programs providing care in non-traditional hours, and support our vulnerable populations.**



Key Reauthorization Changes

Health and Safety

Background Check Requirements

- Providers must request comprehensive background checks prior to hiring staff and do them every 5 years
 - Montana currently conducts background checks of all providers. Federal Fingerprint Checks (FBI checks) will be conducted every 5 years for all staff and adult household members.

Compliance date - 9/30/2017

- States must make full inspection reports available online
 - Montana will be posting additional information in regards to inspection reports

Compliance date – November 2017, or one year after monitoring is in place



Key Reauthorization Changes

Health and Safety

- States must conduct a pre-licensure inspection, and one unannounced inspection annually for licensed providers, as well as license-exempt providers
 - Montana does not currently conduct a pre-license inspection. Unannounced inspections are conducted randomly on 20% of Group and Family child care programs.
 - Montana does not currently inspect license-exempt providers (LCP)

Compliance date – November 2016

- States must establish qualifications and training for licensing inspectors and maintain a sufficient number of inspectors to conduct timely inspections

Compliance date – November 2016



Key Reauthorization Changes

Health and Safety

- D. States must establish health and safety standards in specific areas (i.e. safe sleep, disaster preparedness) and mandate pre-service orientation and ongoing training for all providers, including license-exempt (LCP).
 1. Legally Certified Providers (LCP) are required to attend pre- service orientation and on-going training.
 2. Yearly required training:
 - Montana will phase-in the increase of required hours from 8 hours to 16, 24, and 30 hours over the next 4 years



Key Reauthorization Changes

Health and Safety Training requirements

Orientation/health and safety topics:

- CPR and First aid for all staff
- Mandatory Reporting
- SIDS prevention and use of safe sleep practices
- Prevention of shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma
- Hazardous Material
- Prevention and control of infectious diseases
- Medication administration
- Prevention and response to emergencies and allergic reactions
- Building and physical premises safety including identification and protection from hazards that can cause bodily injury such as electrical hazards, bodies of water and vehicular traffic
- Emergency preparedness and response planning
- Handling and storage of hazardous materials and the appropriate disposal of bio-contaminants
- Transportation

Key Reauthorization Changes

Health and Safety

- E. Before staff begin to work with children, they are required to receive an orientation.

Compliance Date – November 2016

- F. Must include in a website processes for licensing and monitoring child care providers, processes for conducting criminal background checks, and offenses that prevent individuals from becoming child care providers.

- Montana currently has a website. There are plans for additional information to be added.



Key Reauthorization Changes

Health and Safety

Group Size

A. States must set group size for all age populations

- Montana is currently setting group size limits



Key Reauthorization Changes

Other Quality Provisions

- Includes provisions on social-emotional health of children, including providing consumer and provider education about policies regarding expulsions of children from early care and education programs and developmental screenings for children at risk of cognitive or developmental delays.
 - Montana – Vulnerable populations defined. Policy being developed. Screening tools identified and training plans.
- Phases-in increase in minimum quality set-aside from 4% to 9% over a 5-year period.
 - Montana – plans are included in STARS strategic planning framework
- Requires States to spend minimum of 3% to improve the quality of care for infants and toddlers.
 - Montana – currently in planning phase

Key Dates

- Criminal Background Checks – compliance by 9/30/17
- Monitoring of Licensing requirements – compliance by 11/19/16
- Posting Results of monitoring – compliance by 11/19/17 or one year after monitoring is in place
- Minimum Quality Spending must be at 7% by FY '16, 8% by FY '18 ,etc.
- Infant and Toddler Spending must be at 3% by FY '17
- Child Care and Development State Plan is due March 1, 2016
- Final draft of State Plan distributed and available on web – January 22, 2016
- State Plan Public Hearing – January 28, 2016
- Final State Plan due for submission – March 1, 2016
- Full implementation, if approved, is June 2016 through September 30, 2018

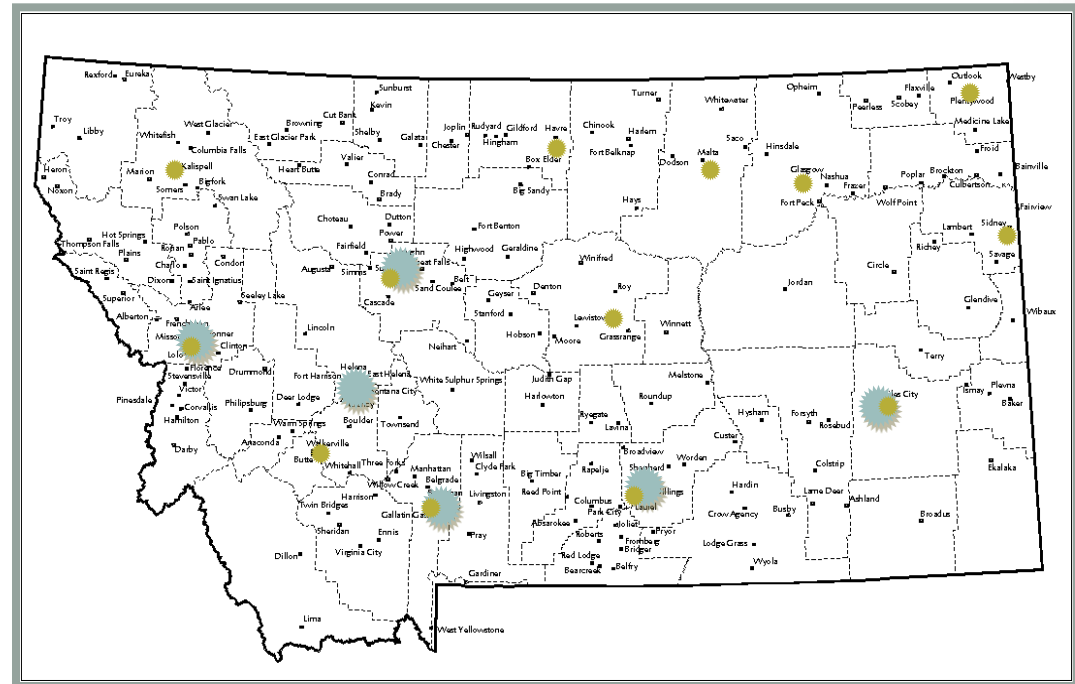
Community Forums - Overview

- This fall, staff from the Early Childhood Services Bureau and Child Care Licensing Program traveled across the state. They met with communities to inform them about the state plan and what it means to Montana.
- The following chart shows the schedule of community forum visits:


City	Date
Bozeman	November 9
Great Falls	November 12
Miles City	November 16
Billings	November 17
Missoula	November 23
Helena	December 1

- The Helena forum provided a WebEx for state-wide participation.
Communities that participated include:

- Billings, Bozeman, Butte, Glasgow, Great Falls, Havre, Kalispell, Lewistown, Malta, Miles City, Missoula, Plentywood, Sidney



 Community Forum Location

 Participation via WebEx